

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09798 01 OF 02 281109Z  
ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 09798

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SUBJECT 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR, ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF UNDP, AND  
RECRUITMENT AND USE AND PROSPECTS OF REDUCING THE COSTS  
OF UNDP FINANCED EXPERTS (AGENDA ITEM 4, 8 AND 17(G))

SUMMARY: TO THE CONFUSION OF THE COUNCIL ALL THREE  
AGENDA ITEMS WERE MERGED WITH 17(G) SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED  
TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE. SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DR. PETER BOURNE,  
ADDRESSED THE FIRST TWO AGENDA ITEMS. ONE OF THE MOST  
SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS WAS MADE BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. THE COUNCIL CONTINUED THE DISCUSSION INITIATED  
LAST YEAR ON THE ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF UNDP WHICH THEN,  
AS NOW CONSTITUTED THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF REVIEW.  
STATEMENTS WERE DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR GENERAL SUPPORT  
FOR UNDP AND THEIR PRAISE THAT UNDP AND THE SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES WERE ACHIEVING A MODUS VIVANDI. UNLIKE LAST  
YEAR'S DIALOGUE, THE AGENCIES DID NOT AT THIS SESSION  
TAKE THE FLOOR EITHER COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09798 01 OF 02 281109Z

TO DISPUTE UNDP'S ROLE.

2. SEVERAL THEMES EMERGED IN DELEGATIONS' STATEMENTS:  
UNDP CONTINUES TO BE SUPPORTED AS THE UN'S PRINCIPAL  
SOURCE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION; THE RESREPS DESIGNATION  
AS THE "SINGLE OFFICIAL" RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING  
UN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD, PER THE ACC'S

RECOMMENDATION, IS FULLY SUPPORTED; THE COUNTRY PROGRAM FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL UN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES; THE EVALUATION PROCESS, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE THREE THEMATIC STUDIES PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL AND UNDP'S INTERNAL EVALUATION UNIT, SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED; RECIPIENT COUNTRIES HAVE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR COUNTRY PROGRAMS; GOVERNMENT EXECUTION IS TO BE FOSTERED; RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE UNDP UNDERTAKE A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THEIR TECHNICAL COOPERATION NEEDS; THE SHORTFALL IN THE 1977 DELIVERY RATE WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED AND CAUTION WAS ADVISED ON THE PART OF UNDP NOT TO OVER-ACCELERATE PROJECT AND PROGRAM APPROVALS; THE NEED FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT WAS UNDERScoreD, ESPECIALLY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS; THE FAILURE TO MEET THE 14 PERCENT ANNUAL RESOURCE TARGET WAS POINTED OUT; THE CHANGING PATTERN OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION WAS NOTED; THE USEFULNESS OF UN VOLUNTEERS WAS POINTED OUT; RLDC'S SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE LARGEST SHARE OF UNDP ASSISTANCE; ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIES SHOULD BE PURSUED; GENERAL GRATIFICATION WAS EXPRESSED THAT SOME SOLUTIONS WERE BEING FOUND FOR THE USE OF NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES, BUT MORE ATTENTION WAS REQUIRED TO MEETING THIS PROBLEM.

3. MULTI-YEAR FINANCING FOR UNDP WAS REPEATEDLY MEN-  
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 09798 01 OF 02 281109Z

TIONED. THE NORDICS PRESSED A RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN TO SEEK ADOPTION OF THE PRINCIPLE, SUPPORTED BY MANY LDC'S. THE FRG, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA ETC. COUNTERED POINTING TO PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

4. SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL. IN ADDITION TO DR. PETER BOURNE, THE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF AUSTRALIA, THE NORWEGIAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SWEDEN'S UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

5. AMBASSADOR KENNETH DADZIE, THE RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DELIVERED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR WHICH WAS VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OFFERED HIS INITIAL REFLECTIONS ON BROAD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL. HE TRACED THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

ATTITUDES AND POLICIES AND SITUATED UNDP'S ROLE THEREIN. HE SAW THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS GEARED TO THE HUMAN FACTOR AS ITS AGENT AND BENEFICIARY. HE SPOKE OF NEW APPROACHES TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION. HE REGRETTED THE SHORTFALL IN UNDP RESOURCES AND PLEADED FOR AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS WITHOUT WHICH UNDP "WILL BE STUNTED." HE POINTED TO BENEFITS WHICH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD RECEIVE FROM ECONOMIC GROWTH OF LDC'S. HE TERMINATED BY CITING JUSTICE AND EQUITY AS A BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09798 02 OF 02 281107Z

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 09798

6. MANY LDC'S DEPLORED THE INCREASING GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES AND THE DISPARITY IN ECONOMIC RATES OF GROWTH. WORSENING TERMS OF TRADE ALSO CITED.

7. THE LINKAGE BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS STRESSED BY THE SOCIALIST STATES.

8. SOVIETS, AS IN PAST, DEMANDED THAT UNDP MADE GREATER USE OF SOVIET RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND DEPLORED CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF WESTERN INITIATIVES AND EXPERTS.

9. CONTINUED UNDP ASSISTANCE TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU WAS SUPPORTED. THE OAU SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO IMPROVED WORKING RELATIONS WITH UNDP. THE UNDP GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA SAID HE WAS OVER-PROGRAMMING PROGRAMS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, INTIMATING THAT HIGHER IPF'S WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

10. DISCUSSION ON 17(G) REPORTED ON SEPARATELY.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

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